

What is claimed is:

1. A weight sensing shelf device, comprising:
  - a tray configured to support items;
  - a resilient member operatively engaged with the tray and configured to flex according to the weight of items stored on the tray; and
  - a switch configured to generate a signal when the amount of items on the tray is less than a predefined amount.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient member includes a leaf spring.
3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient member includes a coil spring.
4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the signal generated by the switch is sent to a central processing unit.
5. The device of Claim 1, wherein the tray includes a horizontally slidable drawer.
6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the horizontally slidable drawer includes a floor supported by the resilient member.
7. The device of Claim 6, wherein the switch engages at least one of the floor and the resilient member under a first weight condition and disengages with the at least one of the floor and resilient member under a second weight condition.
8. The device of Claim 7, wherein the first weight condition is greater than the second weight condition.
9. The device of Claim 5, further comprising a slide rail structure for supporting the drawer, and wherein the resilient member supports the rail structure.
10. The device of Claim 9, wherein the switch engages one of the rail structure or resilient member under a first weight condition and disengages one of the rail structure or resilient member under a second weight condition..
11. The device of Claim 10, wherein the first weight condition is greater than the second weight condition.
12. A system for automatically reordering items, the system comprising:
  - a tray configured to support items;



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- a resilient member coupled to the tray and configured to flex according to the weight of items stored on the tray;
- a switch configured to generate a signal when the amount of items on the tray is less than a predefined amount; and
- 5 a central processing unit coupled to the switch, the central processing unit including:
- a first component configured to receive signals generated by the switch; and
  - 10 a second component configured to automatically reorder items based on the received signal from the switch.
13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the resilient member includes a leaf spring.
14. The system of Claim 12, wherein the resilient member includes a coil spring.
15. The system of Claim 12, wherein the tray includes is a horizontally slid able drawer.
16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the horizontally slid able drawer includes a floor supported by the resilient member.
17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the switch engages one of the floor or the resilient member under a first weight condition and disengages with one of the floor or resilient member under a second weight condition.
18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the first weight condition is greater than the second weight condition.
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19. The system of Claim 15, further comprising a slid able rail structure for supporting the drawer, and wherein the resilient member supports the rail structure.
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20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the switch engages one of the rail structure or resilient member under a first weight condition and disengages one of the rail structure or resilient member under a second weight condition.
21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the first weight condition is greater than the second weight condition.



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22. The system of Claim 12, wherein the second component is configured to generate a reorder request and the first component is configured to send the generated reorder request to a supplier.
- 5        23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the first component is configured to send the generated request to the supplier via at least one of a network, a facsimile, or a postal transmission.
- 10      24. A method for automatically reordering items, the method comprising:  
                  supporting items in a horizontally slidable tray with a resilient member;  
                  generating a signal by a switch when the amount of items on the tray is less than a predefined amount;  
                  receiving the generated signals at a central processing unit; and  
                  automatically reordering items based on the received signal from the switch.
- 15      25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the slidable tray includes a floor supported by the resilient member.
- 20      26. The method of Claim 24, wherein generating the signal includes generating the signal when the tray is at a weight condition less than a threshold amount.
- 25      27. The method of Claim 24, wherein automatically reordering items includes generating a reorder request and sending the generated reorder request to a supplier.
- 30      28. The method of Claim 24, wherein sending the generated reorder request to the supplier includes sending the generated reorder request to a supplier via at least one of a network, a facsimile, or postal.
- 35      29. The method of Claim 24, further comprising outputting a signal requesting resupply based on the received signal from the switch.
- 40      30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the outputting includes activating a light.



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